excise duty on such cotton yarn has already been paid as per the rates applicable for such yarn.

Duty Free Import of Cotton

3857. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 992 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 1st March, 1994 and state :

(a) whether cotton trading companies have imported bales of cotton ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) and (b) The Government have allowed duty free import of upto 5 lakh bales of raw cotton during the current year by spinning mills. Since the import process have just started no quantity has been imported so far.

Tripartite Committee on Sick NTC Mills

3858. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Tripartite Committee on Textiles has yet taken any decision on the future of sick NTC mills ;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ;

(c) whether the Trade Union have firmly opposed the closure of sick NTC mills and retrenchment of staff ; and

(d) if so, the response of Government to such protests ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) to (d) The Special Tripartite Committee on its meeting held on 9-4-94, reached the following unanimous agreement :--

1. The reports given by the Textile Research Associations show that the NTC mills as well as Taken Over Mills can be made viable by modernisation.

2. Modernisation/Rationalisation therefore should be carried out in consultation with the unions.

3. There should be no retrenchment.

4. There should be no privatisation.

5. Taken over mills should be nationalised.

6. Surplus land may be disposed of and the proceeds should be utilised by the Management for modernisation, working capital, etc.

7. Professional management should be strengthened both in the Holding Company and at the subsidiary levels and representation of trade unions should be ensured upto Board level for effective participation of workers in management at all levels from unit to Holding Company level.

8. Steps shall be taken to move the BIFR to accept the above proposals and close the cases.

Grievances of Garment Exporters

3859. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether a Memorandum was submitted by All India Garment Exporters Common Cause Guild to the Prime Minister to get redressal of their grievances from the Ministry of Textiles ;

(b) if so, whether their main objection was the removal of certain distorted provisions in quota policy for 1994-95 ;

(c) what were the other points mentioned in the memorandum ;

(d) whether all the points of the memorandum have been considered by Government ; and

(e) if so, what are the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) to (e) Government had received a memorandum dated the 8th December 1993 from the All India Garment Exporters Common Cause Guild suggesting certain changes in the Long Term Garment Export Entitlement Distribution Policy 1994—1996. The main suggestions made in the memorandum were regarding permitting direct transfers between registered exporters without the medium of Registered Quota Agents, increasing the base period of calculation of Past Performance Entitlement (PPE) and Non Quota

Exporters Entitlement (NQEE) from one year to two years, earmarking certain percentage of annual level for the FCFS System, restricting transfer of entitlements during June—September period to 50% of the entitlements etc.

The Government had carefully considered the representation and also various other representations received regarding various aspects of the quota policy and decided that it is desirable to make changes with regard to two elements of the policy. Accordingly, amendments were issued to the Policy providing for direct transfer of entitlements between the exporters and imposing certain restrictions on transfer of entitlements during June-September period.

Stabilisation of Cotton Yarn Prices

3860. SHRI PRAGADA KOTAIAH : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether representations have been received by the Ministry of Textiles urging for stabilization of cotton yarn prices to be fixed by an Export Committee to be appointed for the purpose and for placing stabilization fund of Rs. 100 crores at the disposal of N.H.D.C. for the purpose of procuring and distributing yarn at stabilized prices to handloom weavers in and outside the cooperatives; and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The National Handloom Development Corporation (NHDC) is provided with assistance by way of share capital for enabling it to supply yarn to handloom weavers. Assistance is also provided under mill-gate price scheme. The NHDC procures and distributes yarn on receipt of specific indents and is not engaged in storage of yarn. The scheme for setting up of Handloom Development Centres has targeted, *inter alia*, to enhance the capital base of the primaries so that they are able to procure larger quantities of yarn and thus give more employment to handloom weavers. In view of these reasons, Government does not propose to create a stabilisation fund of Rs. 100 crores.

Relief to Handloom Weavers.

3861. SHRI PRAGADA KOTAIAH : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether any representation from members of parliament and weavers' cooperative societies have been received by the Prime Minister requesting for immediate relief to millions of handloom weavers in dire distress ;

(b) if so, what are the demands made for their relief; and

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken to meet their demands in order to provide relief to handloom weavers ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Following are the demands made by the signatories of the representation :—

(i) to suspend the exports of cotton yarn till such time they go down to the level of November, 1993 to help handloom weavers;

(ii) to create a stabiliation fund of Rs. 100 crores to stabilise the prices as suggested by an expert committee and arrange its procurement and distribution by NHDC Lucknow which may be assisted by a committee of handloom weavers in cooperatives for its effective functioning;

(iii) to direct the mills in the cooperative sector and also under the NTC to produce only hank yarn of standard counts; and

(iv) to prosecute the mills which have been deliberately defying the direction of the Government to produce hank yarn to the extent of 50% of their marketable output.

(c) Government has examined the demands made by the representationists. Cotton yarn exports constituted only 10% of the country's total cotton yarn production and thus suspension of cotton yarn exports may not have any perceptible impact on hank yarn prices. The increase in cotton yarn prices in the recent past has